



THE VIRGINIUS MASSACRE.

PROBABLE EXECUTION OF ALMOST ALL THE PASSENGERS.

ONLY EIGHTEEN SAVED FROM DEATH—THREE OF THESE SET AT LIBERTY—POLICY OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT—OPINIONS ABROAD AND AT HOME.

A fact is incidentally mentioned in a telegram from Havana which throws some light on the fate of at least 42 of the passengers on board the Virginius hitherto remaining in obscurity. Until the receipt of this dispatch there has been no positive statement that more than 110 out of the 170 passengers had been executed. It is now stated so circumstantially as to leave little room to doubt that 42 others have also been killed, leaving 18 only who escaped this extreme penalty. Of these 18, who it was intimated some time ago, would be more fortunate than their companions, only three have been set at liberty. The names of the 12 victims executed on the 8th of November are made public, and a description of the arrival of the Virginius at Havana, escorted by three Spanish war vessels, is also given. The atrocities of the authorities in Cuba have occasioned some comments abroad. One prominent London journal asserts that Great Britain would view favorably the annexation of Cuba to the United States; a Madrid journal, said to be published in the interest of the Alphonseists, advises the Spanish Government to send our Envoy to Spain his passport. The policy of the Spanish Government, however, appears to be very conciliatory, based, it is said, on the desire to obtain the moral support of the United States for the Republic. In our own country nothing very important respecting the course of our Government has been made known. The Secretary of the Navy has been actively engaged in naval preparations. Among these the most significant is the departure of the flagship Worcester, with Rear-Admiral Scott on board, for Key West, which is to be made a large depot for supplies. Among the intelligent comments on the situation may be mentioned the letter from Senator Sumner. The sentiment throughout the country does not appear to have undergone any important change.

THE FATE OF THE PASSENGERS.

CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORT THAT ONLY EIGHTEEN HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM DEATH—NAMES OF THOSE EXECUTED ON THE 8TH OF NOVEMBER.

HAVANA, Nov. 18.—Of the members of the crew of the steamship Virginius who were not killed by the Spaniards at Santiago de Cuba, four were condemned to the chain-gang for life, three to eight years' imprisonment, eight to four years' imprisonment, and three were set at liberty. The following are the names and ages of the Cubans shot on the 8th inst.: Arturo Loret Mola, 18 years 6 months; Augustin Varona, 28 years; Oscar Varona, 19 years; Guillermo Valls, 24 years; José Boite, 26 years; Salvador Penedo, 23 years; Enrique Castellanos, 29 years; Augustin Santa Rosa, 40 years; Justo Consegua, 25 years; Francisco Porraya, 19 years; José Otero, 27 years; Hermilio Quesada, 18 years. All of the above were well known in the island, several having seen service already in the Cuban army.

ARRIVAL OF THE VIRGINIUS AT HAVANA.

SHE IS ACCOMPANIED INTO THE HARBOR BY THREE SPANISH WAR VESSELS.

HAVANA, Nov. 18.—The steamship Virginius arrived here at 2 o'clock this afternoon. She entered the harbor with the Spanish colors at her mast-head. A procession was formed consisting of the Isabella la Católica and another man-of-war in advance, the Virginius following, and her captor, the gunboat Tornado, bringing up the rear. In this order they passed up the harbor, the shores of which were lined with crowds of citizens. There was some cheering along the lines of spectators as the Tornado passed.

POLICY OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

A SATISFACTORY AND HONORABLE SETTLEMENT DESIRED.

MADRID, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1873.

The Spanish Cabinet are unanimously in favor of a satisfactory and honorable settlement of the Virginius difficulty, but regard the maintenance of the integrity of Spanish territory as essential.

JOINT ACTION WITH ENGLAND RECOMMENDED.

LONDON, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1873.

The Daily News expresses the hope that the British and American Governments will act together in the settlement of the Virginius affair with Spain.

EARNEST PROPOSITIONS OF FRIENDSHIP—ORDERS TO SPANISH NAVAL OFFICERS TO OBSERVE THE MOST CAUTION IN THE CONDUCT TOWARD AMERICAN VESSELS.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Information received from Madrid shows that the Spanish Government is in earnest in its professions of friendship for the United States. It expresses anxiety to do everything in its power not only to preserve but to strengthen the peaceful relations now existing between the two countries.

Apart from commercial relations, Spain desires the moral support of the United States in its effort to permanently establish a republican government in that country, and hence the report received here gains credit that orders have been issued by the Spanish Admiralty to Spanish naval officers in their conduct toward vessels carrying the United States flag, and to do so that would have the effect of adding to the present excitement in the United States growing out of the late unhappy occurrences at Santiago de Cuba.

OPINIONS ABROAD.

A LONDON JOURNAL FAVORS THE ANNEXATION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED STATES.

LONDON, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1873.

The Daily Telegraph of this morning has another leading article on the Virginius affair. It says:

Considerations of policy and humanity would lead England to view favorably the annexation of Cuba to the United States. That the American Government will wait the reassembling of Congress before taking action in the Virginius matter is evidence that its policy will not be governed by popular clamor. We do not despair of a peaceful solution of the question. In view of the difficulty the United States would experience in retaining possession of Cuba if annexed, we would advise the Government of that country to acknowledge the belligerence of the insurgents and ultimately guarantee the independence of the island, asking in return the abolition of slavery.

A MADRID JOURNAL ADVISES THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO SEND GEN. SICKLES HIS PASSPORT.

MADRID, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 1873.

The Diario Español, the organ of the Alphonseists and hostile to the present Ministry, advises the Government to send Gen. Sickles his passport.

OPINIONS AT WASHINGTON.

SPECULATIONS UPON THE ATTITUDE OF OUR GOVERNMENT—THE PREPARATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE THE CASE TO CONGRESS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—The position of the Government heretofore given, with reference to Cuban affairs, was not changed by the Cabinet meeting of today, although the subject was discussed for two hours. No information has been received at the State Department placing the case in a different attitude, and there is not the slightest reason for believing that the main case, as between our Government and Spain, will be determined until the meeting of Congress. The position of the President, however, must be taken before Congress meets, and his determination is dependent on the course of the Madrid Government during the next eight or ten days. On the fact as they exist to-day there is rea-

son to believe that he has a settled policy as to what course he will take in his message to Congress; but events may change before the day of assembling of the legislative branch of the Government. This leaves the present condition as follows: We have made certain demands on Spain for reparation, and that Government, so far as known, has neither admitted the justice of the demands nor urged the injustice of them; it has not indicated what it will do in case the facts as claimed are established, and indeed it has given no satisfactory assurances of any character. A few meaningless assurances of a desire to accord full justice is all that Spain has done. True, she has asked for delay—a request which will be allowed to rest until the last moment possible, but Spain also has indicated unmistakably that she will do nothing until she has fully informed herself of the facts. Whether Congress or the American people would put themselves in the attitude of forcing a Government to make redress on incomplete or uncertain testimony is not a question for discussion here. The President must write his message and he has but ten days in which to do it. Before that period elapses it would seem to be reasonable to suppose that Spain, if she has done nothing, will be in the attitude of having refused to do what was demanded of her. The course of the President is then clear. He must report the failure of the Spanish Government to accord our demands, with such recommendations as he sees fit.

As to the nature of the President's recommendations, nobody on terms of familiarity with high officials here can doubt, for the Cabinet is a unit and in perfect accord with the President. All are as strong in their opinions toward Spain as thoughtful people everywhere are, and in favor of severe and, it is thought, immediate measures. There are two courses from which the President may choose. He may recommend the unequalled, imperative recognition of the Republic of Cuba, leaving her at liberty to govern herself, or he may recommend that force be used for the absolute capture of the island and its annexation to the United States. As to these propositions, the members of the Cabinet, it is understood, are divided, some being in favor of recognition and others in favor of annexation. The case has not reached that point where it is necessary to decide between the propositions, but that the President will take one or the other is not doubted here. That the alternative will be presented is shown by the fact that Spain has already declined to do anything until she has full official information, which must require, considering the distance between her colony and herself, several weeks to obtain. Will Congress accord that delay? is a question the decision of which cannot be long postponed.

LETTER FROM SENATOR SUMNER.

The following letter from the Hon. Chas. Sumner, intended to be read at the Cuban Mass Meeting on Monday evening, was not received until yesterday. Gen. McMahon, in behalf of the Committee on Speakers and Telegrams, authorizes a positive denial of the statement that some of the letters and dispatches intended to be read at the meeting were suppressed on account of their unfavorable sentiments:

Boston, Nov. 18, 1873.

GENTLEMEN: It is not in my power to be with you at your meeting to ask for justice in Cuba.

Allow me to add that, long for immediate Emancipation in this neighboring island, where slavery still shows its infamous front, and always insisting that delay is contrary to justice, I do not think it practicable at this moment, on existing evidence, to determine all our duties in the recent case where civilization has received a shock.

It is very easy to see that no indignation at dreadful butchery, incessant with the effort of the sea, but which happily aroused by an ill-considered expedition from our own shores, kindred to that of the Alabama for which England has been justly condemned in damages, can make us forget that we are dealing with the Spanish nation, struggling under terrible difficulties to become a stable republic, and therefore deserving from us present forbearance and candor. Nor can we forget the noble President, whose eloquent voice pleading for humanity and invoking our example, has so often charmed the world. The Spanish Republic and Emilio Castelar do not deserve the menace of war from us.

If watchwords are needed now, let them be Immediate Emancipation and Justice in Cuba—success to the Spanish Republic—peace and gratitude to Emilio Castelar, and peace between our two nations. Bearing these in mind, there will be no occasion for the belittling preparations of the last few days, adding to our present burdensome expenditures several millions of dollars, and creating a war fever to interfere with the general health of the political body.

I am, gentlemen, your faithful servant,

CHARLES SUMNER.

The Committee, &c., &c., &c.

VIEWS OF SENATOR STOCKTON.

THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT CLEARLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIRGINIUS MASSACRE—THE OFFENSE THE SAME THAT ENGLAND COMMITTED IN 1812—NO DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENT CONDITION OF SPAIN—THE POLICY OF CONGRESS IN NOT STRENGTHENING OUR NAVY CONDEMNED—THE PROBABLE ATTITUDE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ON THE QUESTION.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Senator Stockton of New-Jersey has arrived in this city. As a leading Democratic Senator, his views upon the Cuban question are especially interesting, and his long experience in the diplomatic as well as the legislative service of the country gives them additional value. His opinions, as expressed to-day, are substantially as follows: No enforced apology or excuse that Spain can make will relieve what is clearly a serious situation. Those on board the Virginius, and occupied the same position as if they had been in Washington. Those who boarded the Virginius, took possession, and shot in cold blood the crew as well as the passengers, were officers and soldiers of Spain, holding their commissions under that Government, and using the arms of that Government. Spain must therefore not only disown the act, but punish as criminals all those engaged in it, or must be responsible for the violation of international law.

The War of 1812 was occasioned more by the violation on the part of England of this principle, by attempting to board American vessels on the high seas to search for deserters from the English flag, than by any other cause. The affair of the Chesapeake, which was the match that kindled the flame, is yet fresh in the memory of some still living. The United States at that time had a small navy, and apparently little hope of any success in coping with the "Mistress of the Seas;" but yet, so important was this principle even then, that no hesitancy was felt in making the issue. By the effort of our diplomatists, and the justice and necessity of the principle itself, it has become an acknowledged precept of international law. So, on the coast of Africa, where the slave trade was carried on under false and foreign flags with impunity, under the eyes of men-of-war sent for the purpose of preventing it, it became necessary, in order to stop the trade effectually, that the maritime Powers should, by treaty, stipulate each to keep a certain number of war vessels on the coast of Africa, because none would consent to have their flag violated nor their ships visited for purposes of inspection by cruisers of a foreign power.

Senator Stockton recalled the case of a young lieutenant in our navy, who commanded a cruiser of the United States and captured, in violation of this rule, a vessel which turned out to be loaded with a cargo of slaves, sailing under a foreign flag. Being sent to the port of Boston, she proved to be an American vessel, and proceedings were at once instituted in the Circuit Court against the captor. Mr. Webster defended the case, and Judge

for the defense undertook to show what was found on board the ship, and that she was a pirate and liable to capture, the testimony was excluded, on the ground that the act of going on board a vessel sailing under a foreign flag being illegal under the circumstances, the defense could not use any evidence of the character of the vessel which was obtained by that illegal act. Mr. Webster inquired of the captor what had induced him to violate the foreign flag. He replied that he did so because he knew that it was a fraud, and that the vessel was a Baltimore clipper, and any seaman would know it in any part of the world. The vessel was then lying in Boston harbor, and a number of sea captains then in port being called at random confirmed this fact, when the Court said that, being now legally on board the ship, evidence could be given as to what they found thereon. The proposition, however, that the flag on the high seas protects all it covers, is too well established to be successfully disputed at this day.

But the most serious part of this question seems to be that, if the accounts in the papers are true, several days after Spain had disavowed the act, and while she was asserting as a necessary part of her defense, that she had the power as well as the will to prevent further outrages of a similar character, the remainder of the prisoners were butchered in cold blood. Now, if Spain was acting in good faith, then it must be true that she had the power to prevent her own soldiers and mariners from becoming pirates on the high seas and from violating international law and the commonest dictates of humanity.

How long it is decent and becoming for a great maritime power, which has an island in such a condition as Cuba is in adjacent to its territory, to permit this state of things to exist, is one of the most serious questions for the Administration to consider. The Administration cannot be blamed for exhibiting heretofore a desire to take advantage of the internal dissensions existing in Spain, to acquire possession of the island of Cuba, or even to assist her in her efforts at independence. The Administration has preserved itself from any blame on that score. No action which the present emergency may call for, no matter how decided, how prompt and energetic—no matter what consequences it may lead to—can be attributed to any design to take advantage of the present condition of Spain. In fact, this country is to-day far inferior to Spain in its preparations for maritime war, and, if, unfortunately, we should be driven by our own self-respect and the proper assertion of those principles of international law to which we are fully committed, into a war with Spain, it will be found that we are utterly unprepared to cope with her on the sea, so far as ships and warlike preparations are concerned.

Here the Senator spoke at length of the weakness of our navy, and referred to his repeated efforts in the Senate to secure its reinforcement. He condemned the policy of Congress of letting our navy go to ruin because we were at peace. The personnel of our navy was never better, but to send our brave men to sea in old-fashioned, rotten, wooden ships, or equipped in monitors, might result in sacrificing their lives foolishly and in destroying the prestige of our navy. The folly of Congress in neglecting to strengthen our maritime force is no excuse, the Senator continued, for any hesitancy to maintain the inviolability of our flag and to protect what it covers on the high seas. He spoke of the brutal murder of the officers and crew of the Virginius with cold feeling, and said it appeared that men who shipped with no knowledge of the objects of the voyage, and the engineer and firemen who took service with no motive but to get work, which the financial condition of the country made it so difficult to get at home, were butchered with the rest.

Speaking in conclusion of the probable attitude of the Democratic party in Congress, he said that while the party would not be willing to violate one principle of international law for the purpose of acquiring any seeming gain, territorial or otherwise, it will at present, as in the past, insist that the dignity of our country shall be maintained, and the certainty of the protection of our flag and of the lives of our citizens in all parts of the world shall be established.

STRENGTH OF OUR NAVY.

EFFICIENCY OF OUR IRON-CLADS FOR HARBOR DEFENSE—VULNERABLE POINTS ABOUT THE MONITORS—NAVAL ORDNANCE.

[GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—It was generally believed the Cabinet session to-day would have additional information of an official character from either Minister Sickles or Consul-General Hall relative to the recent outrages at Santiago de Cuba, but there was nothing to engage the attention of the meeting further than has already been made public.

A feature of the conversation to-day at the session was the existing activity in naval matters. There is general satisfaction with the promptitude of naval officers and employes generally in responding to the orders of the department to the end that the service shall soon be in a state of efficiency. Naval officers have been approached relative to the comparative strength of the Spanish and American navies. While a majority of them know, from reports which for some years past have been officially sent to the Department, the formidable character of the Spanish war ships generally, they have no fear from that fact. Even should war result it would not be, excepting so far as the island of Cuba is concerned, a war of invasion on our part, and the naval warfare would not be on the high seas, but confined to the Cuban coast and to parts of the United States, which many prominent officials here think would be thoroughly protected by iron-clad monitors and torpedo obstructions. Old naval officers who have seen active service on our iron-clads, even before these were brought to the present state of efficiency, declare, without hesitation, that one of our monitors could sink a Spanish man-of-war in a close contest in a few minutes. Our monitors having but little hull visible—only 18 inches above the water-line—are practically invulnerable; and even the part exposed could be still further protected, if deemed necessary, by means of fenders. A Spaniard could of course decline a fight by running away from the monitor, and the latter, not being constructed for speed, could not make a successful pursuit. But after the action should be begun, and the two vessels be in close quarters, our monitor would soon disable its opponent. The Spanish war steamers which are represented to be of such a formidable character are plated with iron to the extent of four inches thick, but within 1,000 yards of the monitor in the face of one of our powerful 15-inch guns, in which are used from 80 to 100 pounds of powder at a single discharge. The Spanish iron-clads being constructed after the model of ordinary vessels, present a large hull above the water line, affording fine marks for our runners.

The most vulnerable point about a monitor is the turret, which may be prevented from revolving by an enemy's shot; but great care has been exercised to perfect them in this respect. Even should the turret be disabled, the guns could be directed by means of the helm. Though this latter course would occasion some inconvenience, it would not destroy the efficiency of the monitor. Again, it has been said that American ships are deficient in heavy rifled ordnance, and that every foreign fighting ship is armed with guns of that class; but officers of experience express the opinion that the employment of rifled ordnance on armed ships in preference to smooth bores, is an anomaly, if not a grave error. A vessel of war should be constructed to resist shot and shell at the shortest distance, and they argue that a rifled piece is inferior to a smooth bore at a very short range, say 500 or 1,000 yards. Generally the smooth-bore is just as effective at dis-

tant range as the rifled.

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A NOVEMBER TEMPEST.

PHASES OF THE FIRST SNOW-STORM.

ITS HISTORY FROM ITS CRADLE TO ITS GRAVE—VERY LITTLE DAMAGE REPORTED IN THE HARBOR—VESSELS ASHORE ON THE JERSEY COAST.

The storm-cloud which hung over the city on Monday night did not break until yesterday noon. In the early hours of the night sleet and snow, now and then changing into rain, were heard dashing against the window panes by the sleepless ones of a household.

A strong wind with much force, breaking thousands of brittle branches from the trees, unbalancing signs, shattering loose shutters, and filling chimneys with most delicious melody. After midnight the atmosphere became colder, and snow fell steadily until daylight. The residents in the more open sections of the city looked out from their windows, in the morning, upon a truly winter landscape. Snow completely hid the earth from sight, the only token being the spires of grass here and there, and the tops of the trees, which were completely hidden by the snow.

The morning advanced the air became warmer and a light rain began falling, which ceased, however, at 10 o'clock, and the sun broke through the clouds. Attacked by its rays, the snow, which was about six inches in depth, began to melt with great rapidity. The slippery sidewalks were quickly transformed into sloughs, through which pedestrians plodded with horror. By the efforts of the police the sidewalks of the great thoroughfares were cleared of the melting snow early in the day. Nevertheless the roads were covered from curb to curb with small mounds of snow and large pools of water. On Broadway many merchants had the street crossings cleared at their own expense; but notwithstanding these efforts, long stretches of the street were left unimproved, and the general discomfort was only slightly relieved. Toward nightfall the atmosphere again became colder, gray clouds covered the sky, and another storm was threatened.

The railway trains coming to the city were delayed by the storm. Although the strength of the gale was very great, there were only a few stone signs blown down, and the police did not report any severe accidents. From facts furnished by the office in charge of the United States Signal Station in this city, it appears that the storm of Monday night, yesterday morning was of an unusual character and in some of its features strongly confirmatory of the theory of an annual "November wave," as advanced by Prof. Glaisher of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, England, and Prof. Maury of the United States Signal Corps. It has been settled by observation that of the many storms that yearly arise in the Rocky Mountain region, and sweep to the Atlantic coast, this annual November storm is the only one during the year which has its rise on the Pacific slope, and it is in contemplation by the Signal Corps officials to endeavor next year to establish the truth of their present supposition that the November wave is intimately connected with the annual volcanic eruption of the 18th inst., an abnormally high barometer was observed to be advancing upon the Pacific coast, and the following morning a depression was observed in the Mississippi Valley. This relatively high and low barometric condition increased throughout that day, at the same time advancing eastward. The area of low barometer was found on Sunday to have reached the lake region where it divided into two centers, one advancing eastward by the St. Lawrence Valley, the other moving south-eastward over New-York, the minimum pressure being observed yesterday morning at New-London, Conn., where the barometer indicated 28.56, the lowest pressure ever yet recorded since the settlement of America. At the same time the barometer at Fort Gerry, Manitoba, indicated a pressure of 30.40, a difference of 1.84 inches, or nearly two inches.

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